



**The Holy New Martyrs, the Grand Duchess Elizabeth,
the Novice Barbara, and Those With Them
Whom the Holy Church celebrates on July 5.**

The *Grand Duchess Elizabeth*, a grand-daughter of Queen Victoria of England and elder sister of Empress Alexandria of Russia, was one of the most illustrious women of her day, known throughout Europe not only for her high birth and graceful beauty, but also for her modesty and goodness of heart. After marrying Grand Duke Sergius Alexandrovich, she converted to Orthodoxy, although this was not required of her by her position. After the assignation of her husband in 1905, Grand Duchess Elizabeth withdrew from public life, founding the Convent of Saints Martha and Mary, of which she became the superior. There she dedicated her life to prayer, fasting, tending the sick and caring for the poor. After the Bolsheviks seized power, she was exiled to the Urals, where she and those with her were martyred in 1918 when they were cast alive into an abandoned mine. The *Novice Barbara* followed Saint Elizabeth into exile. When she was separated from the Grand Duchess, Barbara asked to be allowed to join her again; to terrify her, the Bolsheviks told her that she would be allowed to do this, but only if she were prepared for unheard-of torments and a violent death. To their amazement, she consented, and was deemed worthy of martyrdom with the Grand Duchess. Their holy relics were recovered and taken through Russia to China, and came to rest in the Convent of Saint Mary Magdalene in Jerusalem. When their reliquaries were opened in 1981, their bodies were found to be

partially incorrupt, and sweet with the odor of sanctity. With them are also commemorated their fellow Martyrs: Grand Duke Sergius Mikhailovich; Princes John, Constantine, and Igor, the brethren; Prince Vladimir Paley; and Theodore Remez.

*Dismissal Hymn of the Martyrs
Plagal of First Tone. Let us worship the Word*

EMULATING the Lord's self-abasement on the earth, * thou didst forsake royal mansions to serve the poor and disdained, * overflowing with compassion for the suffering. * And taking up a martyr's cross, * thou in meekness didst perfect the Saviour's image within thee, * Wherefore, with Barbara, entreat Him to save us all, O wise Elizabeth.

*Kontakion of the Martyrs. Third Tone
On this day the Virgin*

IN the midst of worldliness, * thy mournful heart dwelt in Heaven; * in barbaric godlessness, * thy valiant soul was not troubled; * thou didst long to meet thy Bridegroom * as a confessor, * and He found Thee worthy of thy martyric purpose. * O Elizabeth, with Barbara, * thy brave companion, * pray to thy Bridegroom for us.

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**SELECTED HYMNS
FROM
THE MENAION**

VESPERS

For Lord, I have cried, *we chant the following Stichera:*
Plagal of Fourth Tone. O strange wonder

SEEING in broken and suff'ring souls * the precious image of God, * through thy diligent care for them, * thou didst daily feed the fire * of divine love within thy heart; * and having brought Christ those whom thy love restored, * thou wast found worthy to offer Him thyself, * blessed Elizabeth, * as a spotless sacrifice in thine own blood. * Wherefore, He hath given thee a crown of righteousness.

EVEN before thy martyric death, * thou shonest brightly with grace, * in the splendor of holiness, with the fiery rays of prayer * and forgiveness of enemies; * serving thy neighbor, thou troddest on thyself, * and didst attain to the highest gifts of love. * What fruit of paradise * flourished not in thy divinely watered soul? * O courageous Martyr, most august Elizabeth.

THOU didst amaze thine ungodly foes * when thou didst bravely consent * to be tortured and put to death * following Elizabeth * on the path of her martyrdom. * For thou hadst shared in her virtues and her ways, * and thou, O Barbara, didst also share in her death. * As thou art crowned with her * and ye dance with joy with all the Martyrs' choir, keep us in remembrance who in faith remember you.

Glory. *Plagal of Second Tone*

WITH all thy strength, O blessed Elizabeth, thou madest the words of the Holy Spirit thine own. For with Ruth, thou didst cry to thy right-believing husband: Thy God shall be my God; with David, thou didst cry to the Lord: I have loved the beauty of Thy house; and with thy Lord, thou didst cry unto his Father: Lord, forgive them, for they know not what they do. Never cease to cry out to Him, O righteous Martyr, that our souls be saved.

Both now. *Theotokion*

O THEOTOKOS, thou art the true vine that hath blossomed forth the Fruit of Life. Thee do we supplicate: Intercede, O Lady, together with the Martyrs and all the Saints that we find mercy.

For the Aposticha, the following Stichera:

REJOICE, Elizabeth, great in God, * whose soul conformed unto the image of Christ-like love; * for thou didst pray for thy slayers, upon thine own Golgotha: * Lord, forgive them, for they know not what they do. * And thou, Barbara, leap for joy, for thy courage and steadfast faith * hath rivaled even the divinely called Band of Twelve, for thou fleddest not when the road came to Golgotha. * Wherefore, O ye emulators of Christ's all-self-denying love * the hope for which ye were martyred is now fulfilled in His boundless love. * Entreat Christ our Saviour * to grant pardon of transgressions and mercy to our souls.

Verse: With patience I waited patiently for the Lord, and He was attentive unto me.

REJOICE, pure and most fair brides of Christ, * sisters of mercy and true daughters of Abraham: * For he whom the Lord commanded to leave his country and kin * hath in you the joint heirs of his promises. * For neither ties of the flesh, nor the love of an earthly home, nor female frailty, nor yet grievous adversity, * nor could life or death separate you from the love of Christ. * Wherefore, ye are now gathered to the bosom of Abraham, * loving the Kingdom of Heaven above the brief kingdoms here below. * Forget not your servants * who, though sinful, dare to chant hymns and praises unto you.

Verse: He set my feet upon as rock, and He ordered my steps aright.

REJOICE, ye who in life and in death * are shown forth ministers of mercy to those in need. * For by your most hallowed relics ye are come into our midst, * granting by your presence holy joy and peace. * The Grace of Christ, which, by suffering, ye embraced, * hath entered even to the pith of your very bones, * it floweth forth on all showing them reverence. Wherefore, we offer up to you the thanks of our lowly hearts, * that ye have given us sinners a gift more precious than all the world; * with faith as we kiss them, * we receive through them the healing of body and soul.

Glory. *Plagal of Fourth Tone*

SETTING aside the high dignity of thy rank, thou madest thyself the handmaid of the last and most wretched of the poor. Mingling unsparing labours of mercy with the unceasing work of inner prayer, thou becamest a vessel of the Holy Spirit. And when thou hadst consummated thy perfections with a willing martyrdom, the Lord glorified thy relics with incorruption. O righteous Elizabeth, sister of Jesus, intercede with Him Whose will thou didst keep on earth, that He have mercy on us who keep thy joyous festival.

Both now. *Theotokion. O strange wonder*

BEING in darkness, I cry to thee: O Lady, lighten my ways, * for I know that the lamp of love * and compassion lit in thee * never dimmeth, despite my sins. * For in the flesh that He took from thy pure womb, * the unapproachable Light shone on the world: * and He bestowed on thee * all the brightness of His mercy and His love for man, * which thou freely grantest unto them that turn unto thee.

MATINS

SYNAXARION

✠ On the fifth of this month we commemorate the holy Martyrs, the Grand Duchess Elizabeth, and those with her, the Novice Barbara, the Grand Duke Sergius, the Princes, John, Constantine, Igor, Vladimir and the holy Martyr Theodore, who were slain by the atheists in the year 1918.

Verses

Cast in a mine shaft, Elizabeth and companions
Pierced the demons through with the shafts of their patience.

On the fifth Elizabeth came out to light.

By their holy intercessions, O God, have mercy on us. Amen.

EXAPOSTILIARION

Second Tone. Harken, ye women

WITHER thou goest, I will go; * and where thou lodgest, I will lodge; thy people shall be my people; * thy God shall be my God also,* cried out divine Elizabeth * unto the holy Church of Christ, * and followed unto martyrdom * in running after her Bridegroom, Who hath received her in glory.

Theotokion

O ALL-PURE Maid, who hast conceived * Him Who is Joy unspeakable, * do thou make us all partakers * also of joy everlasting, * O blameless Virgin Bride of God, * protection, staff, and mighty strength * of them that cry out piously: * Do not forget us thy servants, * Mary, our God's holy Mother.



OUR MERCIFUL Panagia



HOLY NEW MARTYRS OF RUSSIA Save Us

This Icon shows Ss. Elizabeth and Barbara
just to the left of St. Grand Duchess Anastasia.
The six, the Grand Duke, four Princes and Theodore, slain with
them stand at St. Elizabeth's left hand.

Saint Barbara, clothed as a Novice,
stands on St. Elizabeth's right hand.